

BURIED BENEATH CARLOAD OF COAL

Brakeman on Southern Railway Killed in Freight Wreck Near Meherrin.

OTHERS NOT BADLY HURT

Engine Left Rails at Point Where Track Crosses Virginian Railway.

Buried beneath several tons of coal, Herman C. Irons, twenty-four years of age, a brakeman on the Southern Railway, was crushed to death early yesterday morning as engine No. 355 left the rails at Virgo, near the crossing of the Southern and the Virginian Railways.

Engineer G. E. Wilkinson was painfully scalded and bruised, and his driver, man, G. S. Rowlett, who jumped, was hurt in both ankles. Both were able to walk to Meherrin, three miles away, and report the accident to the operator there.

When they arrived here about 1:20 o'clock yesterday afternoon, they went to their homes without assistance. Irons' body was carried to the home of his brother, L. O. Irons, who lives at 718 McDonough street, South Richmond. His parents were notified at once and reached the city last night to accompany the body to Chula, Amelia county, where the interment will be made in the family burial ground.

Due to Split Switch.
Though the cause of the accident will have to be determined by an investigation, it is thought by the officials and members of the crew that the derailment was due to a broken or "split" switch. The train was to have gone in the siding at Meherrin, three miles further on, and probably was going at its average speed of about twenty-five miles an hour. As the wheels left the rails, Fireman Rowlett jumped and Engineer Wilkinson was thrown clear of the cab. Irons evidently followed Rowlett, but as he struck the ground, the tender with the weight of twelve cars behind it "buckled" and its entire contents were dumped upon him.

The engine turned completely over and was followed by five cars that went over the embankment. Conductor John Glenn, who was riding in the engine, was thrown and immediately called the roll of his crew. Irons only was missing. At first he was thought to be under the engine, but a closer examination showed that this was not true. While Wilkinson and Rowlett walked to the station, the rest of the crew dug beneath the coal and found the body of Irons with his life crushed out.

Wrecking Trains on Scene.
The extra was made up here to follow the regular freight, No. 75, as there were two main cars going south to be pulled behind an engine. Orders were out for the train to meet another at Meherrin, and when the accident occurred it was passing along the switches recently constructed to accommodate traffic at the junction with the Virginian.

Wrecking trains were called at once to the scene of the accident, and in about three hours the track was sufficiently clear for trains to pass only slowly. Luckily, the engine, as it turned over, cleared the track and did not have to be moved in order to allow the passage of trains.

The funeral arrangements for Mr. Irons have not yet been completed, but the burial probably will take place tomorrow. He was unmarried and boarded with his brother, who is a conductor on the Southern. Wilkinson and Rowlett are expected to be back at work in a few days.

Banks in Healthy Condition.
[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
Washington, D. C., January 24.—In a statement issued by the Treasury Department today, the 125 national banks doing business in Virginia are shown to be in a healthy condition. They have loans and discounts amounting to \$57,767,246, and individual deposits amounting to \$75,095,022.

Married Women.
Is the expectant mother's greatest help. It is a remedy which prepares the muscles and tendons for the unusual strain, renders the ligaments supple and elastic, aids in expanding the skin and flesh fibres, and strengthens all the membranes and tissues. It is especially valuable where the breasts are troublesome from swelling and congestion, and its regular use will lessen the pain and danger when the little one comes. Women who use Mother's Friend are assured of passing the crisis with safety. It is for sale at drug stores. Write for free book for expectant mothers.

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